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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1913

CONTINUITY¹

Natura non vincitur nisi parendo.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

FIRST let me lament the catastrophe which has led to my occupying the chair here in this city. Sir William White was a personal friend of many here present, and I would that the citizens of Birmingham could have become acquainted with his attractive personality, and heard at first hand of the strenuous work which he accomplished in carrying out the behests of the empire in the construction of its first line of defence.

Although a British Association address is hardly an annual stocktaking, it would be improper to begin this year of office without referring to three more of our losses:—One that cultured gentleman, amateur of science in the best sense, who was chosen to preside over our jubilee meeting at York thirty-two years ago. Sir John Lubbock, first Baron Avebury, cultivated science in a spirit of pure enjoyment, treating it almost as one of the arts; and he devoted social and political energy to the welfare of the multitude of his fellows less fortunately situated than himself.

Through the untimely death of Sir George Darwin the world has lost a mathematical astronomer whose work on the tides and allied phenomena is a monument of power and achievement. So recently as our visit to South Africa he occupied the presidential chair.

By the third of our major losses, I mean the death of that brilliant mathematician of a neighboring nation who took so com-

¹ Address of the president of the British Association. Read at Birmingham, September 10, 1913.